

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

---

**1. Name of Property**

---

historic name Walnut Grove

other names/site number VDHR # 095-0022 The Robert Preston House

---

**2. Location**

---

street & number 14081 Lee Highway not for publication

city or town Bristol vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Washington code 191 Zip 24209

---

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

---

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

---

**4. National Park Service Certification**

---

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceWalnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia

---

**5. Classification**

---

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  3  </u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>  1  </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  1  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

  N/A  

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>      </u> Domestic <u>      </u>	Sub: <u>      </u> single dwelling <u>      </u>
<u>      </u> Domestic <u>      </u>	<u>      </u> smokehouse <u>      </u>
<u>      </u> Agricultural <u>      </u>	<u>      </u> barn <u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>      </u> Domestic <u>      </u>	Sub: <u>      </u> single dwelling <u>      </u>
<u>      </u> Domestic <u>      </u>	<u>      </u> smokehouse <u>      </u>
<u>      </u> Agricultural <u>      </u>	<u>      </u> barn <u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

---

**7. Description****Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Colonial/ Georgian \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Stone \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_ Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

☒ Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia

Period of Significance \_ca. 1815-1954\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates \_ca. 1815\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_ Preston, Robert \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register  
\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_191-94\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data

- \_X\_ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of Property \_less than one acre\_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	_400015_	4055251	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
___ See continuation sheet.						

---

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title: \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Hardin Kapp, AIA

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ date 01/11/04

street &amp; number: 127 West Queen Street telephone (919)-843-3238

city or town Hillsborough state N.C. zip code 27278

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bristol Historical Association

street &amp; number Post Office Box 2049 telephone (800)-336-7775

city or town Bristol state VA zip code 24203

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

**Section**   7   **Page**   1  

---

**7. Description:**

**Summary**

Walnut Grove overlooks Lee Highway, U.S. Route 11, approximately eight miles west of Abingdon, Virginia. It is within a few feet of the city limits of Bristol, Virginia in Washington County, Virginia. Early pioneer, Colonel Robert Preston, built Walnut Grove in ca. 1815; it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Washington County. The house once was the "manor" house of a large plantation that covered several hundred acres of what is now Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. Robert Preston was one of the first Scots-Irish settlers in this area of western Virginia and was the first surveyor of Washington County. He is acknowledged to have laid out the streets of Abingdon when it became the county seat of Washington County.

The house is a two-story gable-ended timber frame house covered with wood weatherboard with a one-story porch that runs across the front façade. The house faces south and the old Route 11 highway, Beaver Creek, and the modern highway, Interstate 81. The house has two large limestone chimneys on both the east and west gable ends. There is a one-story lean-to addition on the north side that appears to have been built in the first half of the twentieth century. The main house is approximately one thousand and five hundred square feet in size.

The house and its immediate site was continuously owned and occupied by the Prestons and the Sheffeyes (into which family the Prestons married) from the early nineteenth century to the year 2000. It was the first "manor" house of the plantation; the second house is "the Grove," the John Preston House (VDHR #095-0021). It is approximately one quarter of a mile to the east of Walnut Grove and was built in 1857.

The house is in a current state of decay and was slated for demolition by a local commercial property developer when it was given to the Bristol Historical Association, a local non-profit historic preservation organization. Currently, The BHA is proposing to relocate and restore the building in Sugar Hollow Park, a Bristol, Virginia, municipal recreational area.

**Setting**

Walnut Grove stands on the crest of a hill that faces southwesterly toward Hall Bottom and the Great Knobs of the Blue Ridge Mountains on the current border of the City of Bristol, Virginia and Washington County, Virginia. The main view from the front entry has been significantly altered over the last fifty years; Interstate 81 and extensive commercial development has been built near Walnut Grove. To the south and along the front of the house Beaver Creek runs parallel to U.S. Route 11, the Lee Highway. To the east and north of the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

**Section**   7   **Page**   2  

---

House, Sugar Hollow Park and Beaver Creek Dam surround the existing house property. The park been developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the City of Bristol. The park is rural by nature with rolling hills and open pastures defined by stands of hardwood and evergreen trees.

The immediate site around the house also includes two contributing outbuilding resources, an early-nineteenth-century century log meathouse and a nineteenth century hay barn. There is also a small twentieth century non-contributing "well house." A small plank fence surrounds the immediate yard and there are several mature walnut trees in both the front and back yards.

The log dependency is a simple one and one-half story structure with a lean-to on the west side of it. The logs have v-notch joints. The interior has beaded ceiling joists and a dirt floor. The hay barn is two-story sheathed with vertical pine planks and has a gable ended roof with v-crimped metal roofing.

**House Exterior**

Walnut Grove is a two-story gable-ended wood frame house with weatherboard cladding, an ashlar limestone foundation and a metal standing seam roof. On the front/south facing side of the house, there is a one-story five-bay wood frame porch with decorative posts, square pickets and a simple railing. The front façade is asymmetrical; it has two bays of double-hung sash windows on the west section of the main façade. The front door has a transom and above it is a second floor porch door. There is also a single bay of double-hung sash windows on the first and second floors. There are two exterior end limestone chimneys built in a style typically seen in Tidewater and central Virginia in which the masses of the chimneys steps back from the main mass at the shoulder of the chimney. The cornice of the house is a simple box cornice with bed moldings at the frieze and simple barge boards at the gable ends with ogee ends.

On the north side of the house, there is a twentieth century lean-to addition with a rear entry on the east side, a double-hung sash window on the west, two double-hung sash windows, and simple six panel exterior door on the north side. The windows vary throughout the house; only the second floor north side windows appear to be original the house. These three windows have a lite configuration of six- over- six. All of the other windows appear to have been replaced early in the twentieth century. These windows have a light configuration of two –over- two. The exterior doors are not original to the house. They are horizontal paneled doors that are typical used in the first half of the twentieth century.

**House Interior**

Walnut Grove is a one room deep building and its plan is comprised of center hall with flanking rooms. The first floor of the interior of Walnut Grove has a center hall with a grand staircase and it is flanked by

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

two parlors. The first floor ceilings are ten feet in height, while the second floor ceilings are nine feet in height. The staircase is an exceptional example of early nineteenth century early American architecture. It has turned

**Section**   7   **Page**   3  

---

newel post, turned pickets, and elaborately carved railings. The stair carriage has scalloped risers and below the staircase there are raised panels. Recessed paneled wainscoting goes completely around the center hall room.

The two first-floor parlors also have recessed paneled wainscoting on all four walls and both have elaborate raised paneled mantel at the end of the building's fireplace/chimneys. These mantels have mantel shelves set approximately seven feet above the finish floor. Five bays of raised panels are set across the mantle area. The fireboxes in each of the rooms are defined by a low jack arch with ogee and cove casings. The actual masonry surrounding the fireboxes is parged with a lime-based stucco. There are two raised-panel doors that lead one from the center hall to the two parlors. These doors appear to be original to the house; they are raised panels with hand-forged wrought iron strap hinges and elaborate box locks that appear to have been fabricated either in England or Preston's native Londonderry, Ireland. The floors in these three rooms have very wide pine and chestnut plank flooring. All of the window casings in the original section of the house have cyma reversa back band moldings and beaded flat boards.

The lean-to section is not nearly as elaborate as the original section of the house. It spans across the north section of the original house and consists of two rooms, a kitchen and a utility room. There is little or no wood trim, casings consist of square stock trim lumber and the walls and ceilings are sheathed in gypsum wallboard and plywood paneling.

The second floor stair hall has a low railing wall around the stairwell. This wall consists of painted tongue and groove planks, which are beaded and capped with a railing cap. Where this low wall terminates at the east wall the railing cap becomes the cap molding for a chair rail. In front of the landing, there is a beaded board wall partition that forms a small room that was later converted into a bathroom in the twentieth century. Centered in south wall of the sitting/bathroom is an exterior door that leads on to the second floor porch.

Two bedrooms flank the center hall of the second floor; similar to the first floor. These bedrooms also have fireplaces and mantel that are similar to the first floor parlors. However, these mantels have been removed. In the east bedroom; the fireplace was converted for a wood-burning stove while in the west bedroom a non-contributing stone fireplace was built. Both bedrooms have beaded baseboards and chair rails. The east bedroom has plaster walls and ceilings, while the west bedroom has vertical tongue-and-groove beaded wainscoting. Doors on the second floor are board-and-batten doors with box locks fabricated in the late nineteenth century. In the west bedroom, there is an enclosed stairway that leads up to the attic. All of the flooring on the second floor is wide plank heart pine.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

In the attic one can study and appreciate the timber construction of the house. The roof structure consists of timber beam trusses that are mortised and tendoned into place using whittled hickory and chestnut dowels. Each truss was initially fabricated on the ground and each member was numbered using Roman numerals.

**Section** 7, 8 **Page** 4

---

Sub roof planks as well as attic flooring came from virgin first growth trees; some of the planks are twenty-four inches in width.

The house was left vacant in 2000 and it retains a significant amount of its architectural integrity. Where original features have been removed, profiles, which describe dimensions, and shapes of the features, remain. Its isolation from nearby roads and development has spared Walnut Grove from vandalism and theft.

## **8. Statement of Significance**

### **Summary**

Walnut Grove is a late eighteenth century residence located in Bristol, Virginia and Washington County, Virginia that has evolved very little from its original form during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is significant in the region for its distinctive architectural design in southwestern Virginia. Colonel Robert Preston built the house in ca. 1815 after he became the first land surveyor of Washington County and after he laid out the new town and the Washington County seat, Abingdon. Preston, an Irish immigrant, was a member of the Preston family of Virginia who played an important role in the settlement of western Virginia.<sup>1</sup> The Prestons and later the Sheffey family, who married into the Preston family, continuously owned and lived in the house until 2000 when it was sold to a local commercial property development company. In 2001, Walnut Grove was donated to the Bristol Historical Association, which intends to restore the house and use it as a historic house museum that will tell the history of the early settlement of Washington County.

### **Justification of Criteria**

Walnut Grove is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association to the history of settlement of the western Virginia/east Tennessee region. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C as a significant example of colonial architecture. Its form and detailing demonstrate an exceptional level of sophistication and craftsmanship rarely found in this region of southwestern Virginia. It is eligible at the local level of significance.

### **Acknowledgements**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

The author wishes to thank Mr. Marc Wagner, Dr. John Kern, and Mr. Mike Pulice of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for their assistance in the preparation of this nomination. The archaeological investigations conducted by Dr. Stephen McBride and Dr. Kim McBride, this study was very beneficial in understanding the immediate site of Walnut Grove. Finally, the author would like to thank Ms. Jan Rainero, Dr. Kermit Lowery, Mr. Frasier King, and Mr. Bud Phillips of the Bristol Historical Association for their wonderful support of this project.

**Section**   8   **Page**   5  

---

**Historical Background**

Colonel Robert Preston was born in Londonderry, Ireland in 1753. He immigrated to Virginia in 1770 and apprenticed to become a surveyor under his first cousin, Colonel William Preston of Smithfield Plantation, in what is now Montgomery County, Virginia. William Preston was active in politics in colonial Virginia. He was a member of the House of Burgesses and a friend and colleague of Thomas Jefferson. In building his house at Smithfield, William Preston was influenced by the Tidewater architecture of Williamsburg. As well as learning the surveying profession, it is evident that Robert Preston was influenced by his cousin in architecture because the detailing found in Walnut Grove is very similar to the detailing found at Smithfield<sup>2</sup>.

In 1779, Robert Preston moved to what is now Washington County. Soon after his arrival in February of 1780, he surveyed the lots for the new county seat of Washington County, Abingdon, Virginia<sup>3</sup>. On April 19, 1780 he submitted twenty thousand pounds to the Commonwealth of Virginia and was granted a surveyor's bond signed by Governor Thomas Jefferson<sup>4</sup>. Later that summer Robert married his second cousin, Jenny Preston of Smithfield Plantation in Montgomery County, and acquired seven hundred acres of what is now part of Bristol, Virginia. Legend has it that he and Sarah were on their honeymoon when Evan Shelby and William Campbell mobilized their men and marched to Kings Mountain, South Carolina to defeat the British army in the pivotal Battle of Kings Mountain. Later that year he would increase his Walnut Grove plantation by purchasing two hundred and twenty acres from Robert Timble<sup>5</sup>.

After the American Revolution, Preston would have two sons, John and Alexander, and one daughter, Sarah. In 1803, he was commissioned a captain in the Light Infantry Battalion of the 105<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia. At this time of his death in 1832, Robert Preston had amassed a sizable estate. Walnut Grove was a plantation of almost one thousand acres. Preston had seventy-four head of cattle, twelve horses, sixty-two breeding hogs, twenty-seven hogs for pork, sixty-four head of sheep, and twelve casks of brandy. He also had twenty-nine slaves named Charlotte, Lewis, Scotty, Cuppy, Aggey, Margaret, Nancy, Susy, Ned, his wife Ellen, Fanny, Bob, Tom, Harriet, Kate, Billy, Moses, Jack, Mary, Joe, Jim, Adam, Henry, Aleck, Sondson, Ann, Sarah, Eliza and Mary Ann<sup>6</sup>.

His wealth was also reflected in his furnishing he imported from his native Ireland. He furnished his

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

home with eighteen chairs, two cupboards, eight beds, one bed stand, a desk, a bureau, and a chamber chair. He also had door hardware such as box locks imported from Londonderry. His cousin John worked as his agent and often advised him on items to purchase while also stating his disdain for King George III, which was apparently a popular topic for their correspondence, which was found in his papers at the College of William and Mary.

In his will, Robert Preston divided his lands up and gave each of his sons half of the estate. He gave John the Walnut Grove house and several of his slaves to his daughter Sarah Preston Rhea. In 1833, John Preston was the presiding judge of Washington County. He had married his first cousin, Margaret Brown Preston of

**Section**   8   **Page**   6  

---

Smithfield Plantation, and they raised fourteen children in Walnut Grove. In 1857, John Preston built a new home on the plantation that he named The Grove. He would then allow his son, Robert F. Preston, and his family to live in Walnut Grove. In 1861, he deeded the house to him. Robert F. Preston would later inherit the entire six-hundred-acre estate in 1864<sup>7</sup>.

In 1889, Robert F. Preston died and gave the house, the farmland, and an inventory of livestock, equipment and furniture valued at one hundred and sixty-two dollars to his daughter Mary Preston Winston and her children. As the nineteenth century came to a close, the fortunes of the Preston family were waning. In 1900, Mary Preston Winston died and gave the farmland and the house to her nephew F. Robert Sheffey. Her furniture and belongings were valued to be \$58.45<sup>8</sup>.

Robert Sheffey would keep the house and farm for more than forty years, giving it to his daughter Olivia B. Sheffey in 1949. Her nephew, E. Summers Sheffey, would inherit the house in 1949. By this time most of the farmland had been sold by either Mary Winston or F. Robert Sheffey. In 1960, the nieces of E. Summers

Sheffey, Susan Schmette and Sarah Steenis, would inherit Walnut Grove<sup>9</sup>. In 2000, Sarah Steenis Van Horn and her husband, Andrew Van Horn, sold the house and the adjacent land to Trammell Investments, LLC. Trammell Investments gave the house to the Bristol Historical Association only on the condition that they would remove it from the land that is to be developed for commercial use. The BHA intends to relocate the building approximately an eighth-of a-mile to the east on what was still originally Walnut Grove land, into the Sugar Hollow Park, a Bristol City Park and a Tennessee Valley Authority flood control area.

**Archaeology**

In October 2002, the Bristol Historical Association hired McBride Preservation Services, Inc., an archaeological consulting company from Lexington, Kentucky, to conduct archaeological test excavations around Walnut Grove. This was done in preparation for the relocation of the house to nearby Sugar Hollow Park due to impending commercial development. The archaeological work was coordinated by

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

Ms. Jan Rainero from the Bristol Historical Association and the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources under Director, Dr. John Kern, and staff archaeologist, Mr. Tom Klatka.

The field methodology was designed to sample the archaeological deposits in the rear yard in order to locate the detached kitchen of the main house. Shovel pits were dug throughout the rear yard and then excavation of larger test units in areas with higher artifact density and/or stratigraphic integrity. Artifacts found were washed, cleaned and examined nearby at the William King Regional Arts Center in Abingdon.

The investigations conducted did not result in the discovery of any architectural evidence of an adjacent kitchen to the main house. Numerous architectural and other artifacts were found during the study; however, the study concluded that because of the long occupation of the house and yard the majority of the site was extensively disturbed and the site is not archaeologically significant. The east yard had the most integrity,

**Section \_\_8, 9\_\_ Page \_\_7\_\_**

---

although it was very fragmentary. A letter report is attached to this nomination that documents the archaeological study of Walnut Grove<sup>10</sup>.

**Endnotes**

1. Dorman, John Fredrick, The Preston's of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia, Louisville, KY: General Printing Co., p. 72.
2. Summers, Lewis Preston, "Walnut Grove, Now a Business Center Once was Preston Domain, Washington County News, March 4, 1971, p. 2C and p. 8C.
3. Deed Book 1, page 111, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
4. Will Book 1, page 94, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
5. Summers, Lewis Preston, "Walnut Grove, Now a Business Center Once was Preston Domain, Washington County News, March 4, 1971, p. 2C and p. 8C.
6. Will Book 7, page 20, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
7. Will Book 16, page 238, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
8. Will Book 26, Page 337, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
9. Deed Book 1062, Page 152, Washington County Registry of Deeds, Abingdon, Virginia.
10. McBride Stephen and Kim, McBride Preservation Services, Inc. "Archaeological Investigations at Walnut Grove, the Robert Preston House, Bristol, Virginia, 2003, Pages 2, 3,4, 5, 6, Lexington, KY.

**9. Bibliography**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

Dorman, John Fredrick. The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia. Louisville, KY: General Printing Co., 1973.

McBride, Stephen and Kim, McBride Preservation Services, Inc. "Archaeological Investigations at Walnut Grove, the Robert Preston House, Bristol, Virginia, Lexington, KY. 2003.

Philips, V.N. (Bud). Interview with the author. February 5, 2002.

Summers, Lewis Preston. History of Southwest Virginia. Johnson City, TN: The Overmountain Press, 1989.

Summers, Lewis Preston, "Walnut Grove, Now a Business Center Once was Preston Domain, Washington County News, March 4, 1971, p. 2C and p. 8C.

Washington County, VA. Deed Book 1 pg. 46.

**Section   9   Page   8**

---

Washington County, VA. Deed Book 1 pg. 111.

Washington County, VA. Deed Book 87 pg. 249.

Washington County, VA. Deed Book 1062 pg. 152.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 1 pg. 94.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 2 pg. 381.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 2 pg. 381.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 6 pg. 342.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 7 pg. 20.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 16 pg. 238.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 23 pg. 330.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 23 pg. 393.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

Washington County, VA. Will Book 23 pg. 337.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 26 pg. 344.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 40 pg. 176.

Washington County, VA. Will Book 45 pg. 19.

**Section** 10, 11, photo **Page** 9

---

**10. Geographical Data:**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated parcel corresponds to Washington County Tax Map 164-A-34 and includes 1.25 acres of land of the site of Walnut Grove.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries for Walnut Grove encompasses the main house and its immediate site context and out buildings. A site map that documents all of the archaeological test pits is included in the archaeological report.

**11. Additional Documentation**

All of the enclosed photographs illustrate Walnut Grove, Washington County, Virginia. All photographs on the list were taken by Mr. Paul Hardin Kapp, AIA in August, 2003. Original negatives are located in the inventory files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The negative number for Walnut Grove is 21110.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**

**Photographs:**

- Photo 01 of 13: South Elevation (entrance façade); view facing north.
- Photo 02 of 13: South Elevation (entrance façade); view facing northeast.
- Photo 03 of 13: South Elevation (entrance façade); view facing north.
- Photo 04 of 13: North Elevation; view facing southwest.
- Photo 05 of 13: Front Porch; view facing east.
- Photo 06 of 13: Detail of East Chimney.
- Photo 07 of 13: West Elevation of Log Outbuilding; view looking southwest.
- Photo 08 of 13: West Elevation of barn looking southwest.
- Photo 09 of 13: North Elevation of Center Hall; view looking south.
- Photo 10 of 13: West Elevation of the West Parlor; view looking west.
- Photo 11 of 13: East Elevation of the East Bedroom; view looking east.
- Photo 12 of 13: West Elevation of the West Bedroom; view looking west.
- Photo 13 of 13: View of Attic; view looking west.

NPS Form 10-900-a

(8-86)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

OMB No. 1024-0018

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

---

**Walnut Grove  
Washington County, Virginia**